

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02701 120918Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 COME-00
FRB-01 INR-10 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 /077 W
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R 110920Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO FAS USDA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7975

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2701

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: SYRIAN WHEAT AND BARLEY CROP OUTLOOK DIMS

TOFAS 27. OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF SUPPLY AND AGRICULTURE AS WELL AS FARMER ASSOCIATIONS AND THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS ARE MEETING IN DAMASCUS THIS WEEK TO APPRAISE THE WINTER GRAIN CROPS AND TO ESTIMATE THE QUANTITIES FARMERS WILL OFFER FOR PURCHASE BY THE GOVERNMENT. APPARENTLY THESE CROPS, PARTICULARLY WHEAT, SUFFERED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM HOT DRY WEATHER SINCE MID APRIL. ALTHOUGH ACTUAL CROP ESTIMATES HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED PUBLICLY, THE CONSENSUS IS THE WHEAT CROP WILL FALL SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW EARLY 1978 FORECAST OF TWO MILLION MT. WHEN ASKED BY AGATT ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE WHEAT AND BARLEY CROPS THIS EASON, AN INFORMED OFFICIAL WOULD ONLY REPLY IN GENERAL TERMS. HE INDICATED THAT 1978 WHEAT CROP IS NOW FORECAST ABOUT UNCHANGED FROM 1977 (OFFICIALLY ESTIMATED AT 1.22 MILLION MT WHICH WAS 6 PERCENT ABOVE 1967-76 AVERAGE) AND BARLEY CROP IS BETTER THAN VERY POOR 1977 CROP OF 33,893 MT (COMPARED WITH 1967-76 AVERAGE 429,000 MT) FOR LACK OF BETTER ESTIMATE, AGATT NOW FORECASTS 1978 BARLEY CROP AT ABOVE 10 YEAR AVERAGE.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, WHEAT, BARLEY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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